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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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EDITORIAL:

The Amalgamation of HEIMSKRINGLA and LOGBERG

The amalgamation of the Icelandic weekly newspapers, Logberg and Heimskringla, is an event of far greater significance than a mere decision on the part of the publishers to pool their resources and publish only one paper. The amalgamation, and even more so the fact that it succeeded and with such wide approval, is tangible evidence of a significant phase of the thinking of people in North America of Icelandic extraction. In some instances this phase of our thinking is the result of calm deliberation of people who have been giving serious thought to the future in this land of the Icelandic ethnic group and its unique heritage of language and literature. But in other cases, and this is the more remarkable, this phase of our mental processes has not been deliberate but something more or less subconscious, arising in the minds of people who would not be expected to be giving thought to such questions. Some of these people may not even have realized what was taking place within their minds as they watched the "Western Iclander" in action, fitting himself into his surroundings and seeking to contribute to the building of a nation on this continent.

During the eighty odd years that Icelanders have been settled in North America they have been prone to subject themselves to a searching analysis as they contemplated the future of the group and their descendants. Fears, doubts and hopes have inter-

mittently been uppermost in their minds. At times there was a fear that the Icelandic group, because it was so small, would become completely submerged and that not a trace of its heritage would remain. At times there have been doubts as to whether their combined efforts to preserve their heritage and make a permanent contribution to the building of a nation here was worthwhile. Eventually, they reasoned, the heritage would disappear and the contribution to nation building, even upon the closest analysis, would be indiscernible. At other times, as they have observed what has been accomplished and have realized that this has not always been the result of deliberate action or a preconceived plan but rather the result of something within finding expression in outward action, they have been more hopeful. This has raised their assessment of the Icelandic heritage as an instrument that could serve a useful purpose in the cultural development of a nation. This widening of interest and appreciation became apparent during the negotiations leading to the amalgamation and in the reaction that followed. To fully appreciate this upsurge it is necessary to let our minds wander back for a moment.

The intermittent fears, doubts and hopes led to certain schools of thought, as it were, in the thinking of the Icelandic people in this country. At first the position was taken that efforts

should be made to maintain Icelandic islands on this continent. That point of view has been completely eradicated.

Later on, as Icelandic became less and less the language of the home and was being replaced by English, the school of thought began to emerge that in our Icelandic activities two mediums of expression had to be used, viz. English and Icelandic. This gave birth to *The Icelandic Canadian*, now in its eighteenth year of publication. The resistance to an "Icelandic publication in English" in this country was only slight and disappeared as the spirit or tone, the "andinn" that from the beginning has characterized the contents of the magazine, became generally known. But the most pleasing and most encouraging reaction, slower to be sure which is but natural, came from Iceland. It can now be safely said that all leaders of thought in Iceland, who know the facts, recognize the need of a publication in English in America devoted primarily to the interests of the Icelandic ethnic group. They can see the value of such a publication in its two aspects: maintaining a spirit of confraternity among Canadians and Americans of Icelandic descent and their associates; performing a missionary work in making known to the people in this land the enduring value of the best in the Icelandic heritage.

But now something else has come to light, equally if not more encouraging, both here and in Iceland. Just when doubts were being magnified and Icelandic was being rapidly replaced by English in the homes; when a magazine wholly in the English language was gaining in prestige and popularity; when retreat seemed to be the order of the day an incident took place which revealed the existence of a growing sentiment and at-

titude of mind the very opposite of what might have been expected. That incident is the subject of this editorial.

The important circumstance is not that the amalgamation succeeded but rather that such a strong sentiment in favor of it was found to exist in so many and, in some cases, in such unexpected quarters. One must remember that what was uppermost in the minds of all was not the salvaging of two Icelandic weeklies, both of which had a well established and merited goodwill; it was the salvaging or the securing of a publication in the Icelandic language on this continent.

The general approval of the step taken was an illuminating disclosure. It revealed that those who felt that the struggle to preserve the Icelandic heritage was a losing battle were mistaken and that the trend had been the other way. Above all it revealed an opinion that had been gaining ground, largely based upon the record in this land of people of Icelandic extraction, that in the Icelandic tradition there was something of intrinsic value. That record, it was realized, could not be accidental or of the moment. This has led to a recognition of the vitality of Icelandic culture, a growing conviction that Icelandic language and literature are entitled, on the merits, to a permanent place in our common western civilization. The conclusion to be drawn became obvious: a weekly newspaper in the Icelandic language must be maintained in North America. This is what makes the amalgamation of the two weeklies such an historic and portentous event.

The Icelandic Canadian congratulates all who helped in bringing about the amalgamation. It extends good wishes to the editor and her staff. They deserve and are entitled to the assistance and encouragement of us all.

TOAST TO ICELAND

An Address by Hon J. T. THORSON, Icelandic Day, Gimli, Man., August 3, 1959

Mr. President, honourable Maid of the Mountains and dear friends;

When I received the invitation of the Icelandic Day Committee to propose the toast to Iceland and do so in Icelandic I accepted with pleasure. The years during which I was the member of Parliament for the Constituency of Selkirk, of which New Iceland is such an important part, were among the happiest in my life, and I look back upon them with thankfulness. I am grateful to the Committee for the honour of their invitation and the opportunity it has given me to come back here and meet old friends again.

Perhaps you will allow me, Mr. President, before I deal with the theme of my address, to refer to my first visit to Iceland just a little over a year ago. Now I can speak of the land of my forefathers with a warmer personal feeling than I could before. I am free to confess that as my wife and I approached Iceland by air via Icelandic Air Lines I found it exciting to see Iceland emerge from the sea, to pass over the air port at Keflavik and the neat settlement of Hafnarfjordur, to look down at Reykjavik below us with its older section and its new developments and to land at Reykjavikur Airport and smell the fresh clean air of Iceland. It was delicious.

Hospitality is a well known Icelandic quality. My wife and I had proof of this fact from the very moment of our arrival in Iceland and throughout



Hon. Joseph T. Thorson

the whole of our stay there. We could not have received a warmer welcome.

(Here personal references are omitted.—Ed.)

I have heard Icelanders speak of the beauty of Iceland. Now I believe them for I have seen it with my own eyes. We shall never forget our second day in Iceland. The Rector of the University and the professors of the law faculty together with their wives took us east from Reykjavik into the mountains and through Biskupstungur, the home of my ancestors for over a thousand years, all the way to Gullfoss. There is not a more beautiful waterfall anywhere. This trip gave us our first view of the countryside, the lava with

its curious shapes and the glint of the sun on it, the lovely wild flowers growing in the pockets of soil, the sheep grazing peacefully in the meadows, the clear water in the streams and lakes, the mountains with their warm tints, the steam rising from the ground in the valleys and the glaciers in the distance, truly a land of fire and ice, and here and there the trim clean farmsteads. It is no wonder that Iceland has produced such great artists as Asgrimur Jonsson, Jon Stefanson and Johannes S. Kjarval. There is a beauty in the landscape of Iceland that is different from anything that I have seen elsewhere. On the way back from Gullfoss I caught a glimpse of Asakot in the distance, the home of my mother's people for many generations. That day we also stopped at Skalholt and then went on to see Almannagja, Logberg and Thingvellir, where the first Parliament of Iceland was held in 930. The next day took us to Hveragerdi with its wonderful greenhouses and Bessastadir, the home of the President, with its beautiful outlook to the sea.

I could speak at length of Reykjavik itself with its combination of old and the new, the fresh cleanliness of its buildings and streets and the great expansion of housing that has taken place, but this is not the time for that. You will, however, let me say how thrilled I was to see the house that my father built before his coming to Canada, still called "Stefan's hus".

And I know you will allow me to express my thanks for the great honour that the President of Iceland conferred on me when I was made a Grand Cross Knight of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon.

This brings to an end my personal reference to our unforgettable visit to Iceland.

Now I come to the theme of my address. What are the outstanding qualities that have made our nation, so few in numbers, the great nation that it is? Some will speak of the contribution that Iceland has made to the literature of the world, particularly the sagas and poetry of her golden age. But while the Norse literature, written in Iceland, holds an honoured place among the classical literatures of the world I put the spirit of independence and the love of freedom as the basic qualities on which the Icelandic nation is built. They were the qualities that brought Ingolfur Arnarson and his followers to Iceland in 874 after the battle at Hafrsfjord. Rather than submit to the sway of Harald the Fair-haired he and his followers left the land of their fathers in search of the independence and freedom that was denied to them there and they found what they were seeking in the far-off island in the northern seas. These were the qualities on which the first republic was established. They sustained the nation during its darkest days and they will, I am certain, continue to do so.

It is now 46 years, almost half a century, since I first proposed the toast to Iceland at an Icelandic Day celebration. This was here at Gimli in 1913 soon after my return to Canada after an absence of three years in England.

At that time I spoke of the feeling of nationality and national consciousness that had grown to such strength in Iceland.

In developing this theme I made a brief review of some features of Icelandic history. After the arrival of Ingolfur Arnarson and his followers many others came to Iceland, from Norway, the Western Islands of Scot-

land and Ireland, but it was not until 930 that the first republic was established and the first session of the Althing, which met at Thingvellir, was held. I shall not attempt a description of the organization of this new state. The code of law which Ulfljotur had compiled from Norway was accepted as the common law of the land and the Althing was vested with legislative and judicial power. It had jurisdiction over all matters, spiritual as well as temporal. The remarkable feature of the first republic was that there was no executive authority. So far as I know, there has never been another state like it. The Althing was both a law court pronouncing judicial decrees and a law-making body enacting laws but there was no authority charged with enforcing the laws or carrying out the decrees. The only government that was accepted was the rule of law itself and it was the responsibility of everyone to see that it prevailed.

The period of the first republic was the golden age of Iceland during which the immortal sagas and eddas were written. But internal dissension and strife finally brought it to an end and in 1262 Iceland surrendered herself to Norway and subsequently came under the sway of Denmark. With the surrender peace came to Iceland but its independence and the freedom of its people vanished. It could hardly be said that up to this time there had been any development of a separate Icelandic nationality. That had still to come.

After the surrender centuries of hardship followed, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions with streams of lava flowing to the sea, the Black Death and inroads of pirates. The sons of the vikings of old could not now defend themselves against their attacks. The eighteenth century was the worst of all.

Thousands died of famine and the plagues that followed one another in rapid succession. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions took their toll of man and beast. The population had dwindled to less than 40,000 persons. Iceland had sunk to the lowest level in her history and conditions had become so dreadful that it was even proposed to abandon the land and settle its people in the plains of Jutland in Denmark. But this proposal was emphatically rejected.

The end of the eighteenth century saw the dawn of a brighter day. The desire for political freedom that had inspired the French Revolution spread to other lands and had its effect in Iceland. Now the demands for freedom of trade and self-government began to be made. Now there was a quickening of national sentiment and the development of a national consciousness. This showed itself in various ways. The scholars began to cleanse the language of its foreign impurities and restore it to the form in which the sagas had been written. There was national pride in the maintenance of the Icelandic language. And political leaders became insistent in their demands for freedom of trade and government. I shall not attempt to set out the various steps in the struggle. It will be sufficient to note that in 1843 the Althing, which had been suspended, was restored, that in 1854 freedom of trade was granted and that on August 2, 1874, a substantial measure of self-government was won, largely through the courageous efforts of the great patriot, Jon Sigurdson. There was great rejoicing in the land but the desire for separation from Denmark with independence and complete freedom was strong. Now it could be said that the feeling of nationality was intense and the national conscious-

ness fully developed. With this conclusion I left the theme of my address in 1913.

Since 1913 we have been living in exciting times. Great changes have taken place in the world. Two world wars have been fought, the first to make the world safe for democracy and the second to save it from nazism. Countless thousands have died for the cause of freedom. The end of the first world war saw the fall of old empires and the founding of republics in their place. The recognition of the right of peoples to their own self-determination lead to the restoration of such states as Poland and the creation of new ones, such as Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia. Finland and the Baltic States also came into being in their own rights.

During the first world war another great movement began with the Bolshevik Revolution. The Russian Czarist regime was destroyed and a new social order, intended to be based on the rule of the proletariat, was attempted. This Communist movement spread rapidly. Out of it there developed the Soviet Union with its socialist soviet republics, of which Russia is the greatest. As the Soviet Union grew in strength it spread its power into the countries on its borders, including some that had been recently established, and forced them into the status of satellites or incorporated them into the Union.

The strength of the nationalistic feeling that I have mentioned extended to Iceland. When I spoke here in 1913 the Icelanders were Danish subjects but their demand for political freedom was irresistible. It was met in 1918, before the end of the first world war, by the establishment of Iceland as a kingdom in personal union

with Denmark. This arrangement came by way of agreement between the two countries and was to extend for a period of twenty-five years. Now Iceland, for the first time since 1262, when she surrendered to Norway, had freedom of self-government subject to some restrictions in the realm of external affairs.

Then came the second world war against the forces of Hitler and Mussolini and later Japan. This time Iceland was caught in the struggle. It was now in an important strategic position on the airways between the old world and the new and British, Canadian and then United States forces had to occupy it to prevent a threatened Nazi invasion from Norway. Of this I speak with considerable knowledge. There are still some United States forces stationed at the airport at Keflavik.

Since the end of the second world war the march of man towards independence and freedom has quickened throughout the world, particularly in Asia and Africa. The colonial empires are disappearing. British India has made way for the republics of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, the French have been driven out of Indo-China and the republic of Indonesia has replaced the Dutch East Indies. Self-government has come to such countries as Malaya and Singapore.

In the Near East the Jewish people have found a permanent home in the new state of Israel and there has been a great surge of national spirit in the hearts of the Arab peoples.

The light of freedom now shines in dark Africa, a reminder that freedom is not the exclusive right of the white man but belongs to all mankind. New states have arisen there, such as Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Ghana.

But Iceland did not await the end of the second world war to see her dreams come true. It was a term of the agreement between Denmark and Iceland that each should be free, after the end of the twenty-five year period, to decide its future course. By an overwhelming vote Iceland decided to sever her relationship with Denmark and go her own way and on June 17, 1944, the Republic of Iceland was established. Now Iceland has regained the independence and freedom on which the first republic was based and she is able to take her worthy place in the United Nations as one of the free nations of the world.

But Iceland, together with the other free nations of the world, has still a testing time to face. Today we are in the midst of a great struggle for the capture of men's minds between the free nations on the one side with their belief in the freedom of the individual and the Communist nations and their satellites on the other with their emphasis on the state and their denial or suppression of individual freedom. This contest has been raging for a long time and shows no signs of immediate abatement. Which side will win this contest? Whatever the answer to that question may be, one thing is certain. It cannot be won by the force of arms, for it is a contest of conflicting ideologies and ideas cannot be destroyed even by an atomic or hydrogen bomb.

I have expressed the opinion, and I repeat it here, that co-existence between these conflicting ideologies is not possible. One must give way to the other.

I do not believe that the nations that have won and enjoyed individual freedom will surrender it. And there are unmistakable signs that Communism

will lose the contest in Europe. The spirit of freedom cannot be dead in Poland and the world had proof that it was still alive in Hungary prior to its savage suppression. Even in the Soviet Union freedom of the individual cannot be indefinitely denied. History is full of the fact that as man arises and begins to think he demands freedom. Recent visitors to the Soviet Union have spoken in high terms of its educational system. And in an article published some time ago at New Delhi Prime Minister Nehru of India praised Russia's educational program but said that it would lead to Communism's downfall because, as he put it, "this tremendous liberating force will not tolerate suppression of freedom". As man learns to think freedom becomes essential to him.

Now the contest of which I speak seems to have shifted to Asia with China on the one side and India on the other. There the issue is less certain but I do not believe that India will fall into the Communist orbit.

But while I am confident that the freedom-loving countries will not surrender their freedom I am equally certain that they will not win the contest for the capture of men's minds by insistence on individual freedom alone. That will not appeal to peoples who have not known freedom but have experienced and still experience fear and want. The free nations must be able to prove by their own example that it is possible to build an orderly society in which individual freedom is safeguarded and a fair distribution of wealth is assured. Personal freedom by itself is not a sufficiently broad base for such a society. A broader base must be used. Provision must be made for the establishment of the social, economic and cultural conditions that

will enable the members of the society to enjoy the individual freedom to which they are entitled and realize to the full their individual personalities. The example of such a society based on individual freedom and social and economic justice to all will enable the free nations to win the contest to which I have referred.

It will be the task of the free nations, with Iceland among them, to build such a society and I am confident that they will be able to accomplish it. Iceland will face the testing time that lies before her with the steadfastness that she has always shown.

When I spoke to the lawyers of Reykjavik a little over a year ago I expressed the hope that Iceland would continue to align herself with the forces that are struggling for the main-

tenance of freedom throughout the world. I am confident that she will do so. Indeed, it would be contrary to the whole course of her history to do otherwise.

If Ingolfur Arnarson were to rise from the grave he would be proud of the land that he and his followers founded for he would see in its people the same spirit of independence and the same love of freedom that brought him and his followers there in 874. I like to look at Iceland through his eyes for I too see a nation that cherishes its freedom and will not fail.

May Eldgamla Isafold live forever!

By way of footnote it should be added that the above address was delivered in Icelandic. Hon. J. T. Thorson is President of the Exchequer Court of Canada. —Editor

Splendid Pageant

Three Winnipeg Icelanders took part in the Pageant of Nations presented on the lawn of the Manitoba Legislative Building in Winnipeg last July for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip when they visited the city in the course of their Trans-Canada tour. Twenty-five ethnic groups participated in the pageant. Representing the Icelandic group were Mrs. Hulda Clarke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Guttormsson of Riverton, Man., who was attired in the costume of the Icelandic Maid of the Mountains, Ronald Kristjanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Kristjanson, Winnipeg, who carried a symbol of Iceland, and six-year-old Joanne Thordarson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Thordarson, Winnipeg, who made the presentation to the Queen, on behalf of the Icelandic group.

The pageant, which was sponsored by the Citizenship Council of Manitoba proved to be one of the most moving and inspiring programs arranged for the Queen. Kay Kritzwiser of the Toronto Globe and Mail made this comment: "The display was the best expression of Canada's unity that the Queen has yet seen". In the evening of the departure of Her Majesty and Prince Philip, during a pause in the proceedings in Halifax a commentator, on a national TV program referred to three highlights of the whole tour. The Ethnic Pageant staged in Winnipeg was one of them. A Winnipeg reporter was heard to make this comment on the Legislative Building grounds: "The Icelandic Maid of the Mountains was the most beautiful and dignified of them all" —T.O.S.T.

SIGNY EATON—A Nation Builder

A study by W. J. LINDAL

When Signy Stephenson, attending Wellington Public School in Winnipeg, first opened a history of Canada and read about the early explorers, she did not know that she was destined to play an important part in the building of the Canadian nation. Perhaps it was but natural and inevitable for there was so much destiny in her family. Her father, Fredrik Stephenson, was but seven years old when, in 1876, his mother brought him with her to Canada from their island home, Iceland. They settled on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, where a settlement of Icelanders had begun in October the previous year. One year later, Signy's mother, Anna Olson, was born in the same settlement.

The early years of these two children were spent in hurriedly erected log huts in small open spaces between the lake and a hinterland of timber and muskeg. The hardship of early settlement life was, however, not the most cruel burden the settlers had to bear. The fall and winter before Anna was born the district suffered a severe epidemic of smallpox. As medical supplies and trained nursing care were not available many of the settlers died. Permanent scars on mind or on body or both were left on those who did survive. But the very scars gave rise to an indomitable spirit which provided strength to the settlers in their determination not to yield but to press on in the opening of a new land. It was inevitable that Fredrik and Anna and other children of these settlers should become



Mrs. John David Eaton
nee Signy Stephenson

permeated with this same spirit—a spirit they maintained all their lives. Adversity has its hidden virtue.

When fifteen years old Fredrik entered into the printing business in Winnipeg and in course of time became manager of Logberg, an Icelandic weekly, one of the many ethnic publications in Canada which have played such an important role in the process of integrating of newcomers by maintaining an even pace, not too fast or too hesitant, as each national group has fitted itself into the Canadian scene.

The qualities of mind of Fredrik and Anna and, in a way, the experiences of their childhood, were passed on to their children. The oldest son, Edwin Fredrik, at one time a star hockey player, operates a large farm

near Morden, Manitoba, where he specializes in growing seed grain and raising thoroughbred cattle. Harold Jon, the second son, a B.A. from the University of Manitoba in history and literature, is a Superintendent in the Montreal store of Eatons of Canada. Thor Eyolfur, the third son, a B.A. from Toronto and M.A. from California in Aeronautics and Dynamics, is President and Executive Director of Canadian Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. Ltd., Montreal. Anna, the other daughter, is married to James M. Gilchrist, a grain merchant in Winnipeg.

Signy Hildur Stephenson was born in Winnipeg on July 1, 1913. She attended the Wellington Public School and the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, both of which are in the west end of Winnipeg.

It was destiny that decreed that Norma Wilson, a daughter of a former T. Eaton Co. Ltd. Manager in Winnipeg, should be a close friend of Signy when both were undergraduates in Arts at the University of Manitoba, and that, through Norma, Signy should meet John David Eaton, son of Lady Eaton and the late Sir John C. Eaton. Soon thereafter John David's trips to Winnipeg became more frequent and in 1933, two years later, after finishing Third Year Arts, Signy Stephenson became Mrs. John David Eaton. An academic career came to a close and another career began, much wider and with greater significance than any bride could possibly have foreseen.

After the honeymoon Lady Eaton took the young bride with her on an extended trip throughout Europe. It is not without significance that Lady Eaton, nee Flora McCrea, who wrote her biography under the title "Memory's Wall", was not born and raised in a large expanding city, but in the

tiny village of Omemee in Rural Ontario. When one reads the delightfully homey book which gives a picture of rural Ontario a few generations back and then recalls that Signy Eaton was brought up in Western Canada and that both were uprooted from their girlhood environments and plunged into the society of metropolitan Toronto, it is not difficult to understand the close bond between these two women of destiny—a bond of cooperation, love and affection which has made their lives beautiful, noble and worthy.

In his Foreword to *Memory's Wall*, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen says: "This book is a truly Canadian product". One can truly expand that thought, apply it to Lady Eaton herself and to Mrs. John David Eaton and say: "The lives and the work of these two women are a Canadian product; both are truly builders of Canada and both emphasize the aesthetic and cultural side in the building of a nation".

In her new environment in Toronto, in the midst of a society which a university and a capital city create, Mrs. Eaton soon began to enlarge upon what previously had been day dreams, hopes and aspirations. Here heredity and early environment played their part.

Mrs. Eaton, whose native Canadian tongue is English, speaks both French and the language of her forebears. She has a splendid library and her reading is wide. The study of Canadian history was but the beginning of a wider interest and in course of time the written page of history was made a reality by extensive travel in this country and abroad.

Mrs. Eaton has a fine collection of nineteenth century paintings. She also has many contemporary paintings and pieces of sculpture. But she looked

farther back; ancient art attracted her and she now possesses a valuable collection of Chinese art and jade. Signy Eaton is a Founder Member of the Art Gallery of Toronto.

Art, as it finds expression in music and the ballet, has its appeal to Mrs. Eaton. She is a member of the Women's Committee of the Symphony Orchestra of Toronto, a member of the Opera Committee, and also a member of the Canadian Ballet.

Artists such as Graham Sutherland of England and Philip Aziz of London, Ontario, have caught in Mrs. Eaton not only exterior beauty but an expression in that beauty which comes from within, and have suitably recorded them on canvas.

The church and social services have not been neglected. In Winnipeg Signy was a member of the First Lutheran Church, and in Toronto she has been a member of the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church and has actively supported its auxiliary organizations such as the Women's Association.

The Children's Aid Society of Toronto and other social and welfare agencies have received Mrs. Eaton's active support. The many monetary philanthropies must be left to the imagination of the reader as she refuses to disclose them.

But though Canada and its people, rapidly expanding and gaining in world prestige, have been Mrs. Eaton's prime concern and interest, she has not forgotten the land of origin and its people. In 1948 Signy and her mother visited Iceland. They were thrilled by the scenery and deeply impressed by the warmth of the people. What Signy had vaguely felt before acquired a permanence in her heart.

Signy Eaton has at all times been deeply conscious of the heritage of

language and literature, of character, courage and sense of true values which the immigrants from Iceland brought with them to Canada. The Icelandic ethnic group, in its effort to find the worthiest pattern of integration of newcomers into the Canadian stream, has always received Signy Eaton's staunch support. She and her husband, who is not a stranger to the Icelanders of Winnipeg, where the days of courtship were spent, could clearly see the cultural value for Canada of a permanent university site for the study of Icelandic, which is so closely related to Anglo-Saxon, and the literature, modern as well as ancient, which is recorded in that language. They made a substantial contribution to the \$220,000.00 Trust Fund for the endowment of a permanent chair in Icelandic language and literature in the University of Manitoba.

The Betel Home for the Aged, located in Gimli, not far from the place where Signy's mother was born, has been the recipient of liberal bounties from Mr. and Mrs. John David Eaton. Promising young Canadian artists and students of Icelandic extraction have received needed assistance; other gifts and contributions, and there are many, are not disclosed in the records. The people of Iceland have not failed to appreciate that even as Mrs. Eaton has performed her duties in the building of a nation in her land of birth she has not neglected her duties toward the land of origin and its cultural values. This year Mrs. Signy Eaton was awarded the Order of the Falcons by the government of Iceland.

It has been said that the cultural side of the building of the Canadian nation has been neglected. A few years ago Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C. H., headed a Royal Commission which

recommended the establishment of a fund to assist in the study and promotion of the "arts, humanities and social sciences" in Canada. As a result of the findings and recommendations of that Commission, the Canada Council came into existence. If His Excellency had desired actual evidence of the work being done and the mental attitude adopted by a Canadian citizen who was imbued with a true sense of values in materials for the building of a great nation, with due emphasis on the "arts, humanities and social sciences", no Canadian could have better supplied that living evidence, in approach and in deed, than Signy Eaton.

John and Signy Eaton have four sons: John Craig, born May 1937, married this year, at present attending Harvard University; Fredrik Stefan, born June 1938, attending the University of New Brunswick; Thor Edgar, born August 1942, attending Forest Hill High School, Ontario; George Ross, born November, 1943, attending Forest Hill Public School. Nothing need be said about the qualities of mind of these young Canadians, who, tomorrow, will take their place in the Canadian scene. The pattern of education and training for them all will probably be the same: public school; high school or pre-university college courses; university courses; and specialized post-graduate work. While it is expected that in course of time all of them will in some capacity or another fit into Eatons of Canada, it may be assumed that with their training, practical and academic, they will not only occupy executive posts in a commercial institution extending across Canada and beyond, but will at the same time dis-

charge their responsibilities in the building of this nation in all its facets, cultural, material, international. When in the near future we see them in action in their respective callings and in the performance of public service we may well ask: Whence the inheritance upon which has been but superimposed their training and adventitious circumstance? One will recall that the great-grandfather, Timothy Eaton was born in Northern Ireland and that he married Margaret Beattie of Woodstock, Ontario, also of Irish descent. The grandfather, Sir John Craig Eaton, married Flora McCrea, both of whose parents were of Irish origin. Their mother, Signy Eaton, is of Icelandic stock. Thus two distinctive strands in the Canadian fabric have been woven together and in the weaving must have acquired a finer hue and color. That, in turn, will add richness to the completed Canadian tapestry which is still in the making.

We often hear the boasts of leaders of various ethnic groups in Canada, (and here the word ethnic is used in its widest connotation, including all Canadians), as they depict the richness of the outer values of their cultures as seen in language, literature, the arts and customs. True, their claims are not without merit. But we seem too prone to forget that those cultural values have come from within, that they are but the expression of what has been moulded during centuries of struggle, successes and failures, despair and hope, undying faith. This is the real, abiding wealth the settlers of Canada brought with them. As it flows into the Canadian stream we see the integrating process of citizenship building at its best.

As Signy Eaton carries on hand in hand with her husband and they accept and discharge their full responsibilities of contributing to the evolution of Canadian nationhood, and as she joins with him in the even greater responsibility of moulding that inherited wealth of qualities of mind in their sons, she is a nation builder in the noblest sense of those words.

May be destiny has so decreed.



AUTUMN

Mother Nature in her garb of leaves
Upon a day in autumn turns her glance
To scan her wardrobe and assess her means —
Probes through her closets and decides that change
Of raiment is an order of the day.
She doffs her dress of green, and then selects
Habiliment of gaudy hue to match
Her mood of wayward fancy and delight,
Let's fall the shady garment she has worn
Throughout a season when the spendthrift sun
His gentle rays has lavished on her back.
Now, womanly, she has the grace to blush
Before disrobing, when her paramour,
Stern Winter, takes her to his bed.

—Bogi Bjarnason

TOAST TO CANADA

Address by DR. THORVALDUR JOHNSON, Islingadaginn, Gimli, Man, August 3, 1959



Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson

In past years, so many men have stood here and spoken Minni Canada that it is doubtful if I or any one else can say much that has not been said before. On an occasion such as this there are two topics that naturally come to mind.

The first is this: What can we Icelanders or descendants of Icelanders bring to the shaping of this country which is still in the making—for Canada is not a country as yet crystallized into any final form as, for instance, England and France. It is a country still in the making and inevitably we, Icelanders, shall play some part, however small it may be, in moulding it into its future form.

The second topic that comes to mind is perhaps best stated by the question: What form do we wish this country to take?

These two questions are not matters on which I can give any final answer. I can only give my thoughts on them, and I cannot even hope that all of you will agree with them.

Let us deal first with the question of what we Icelanders, or descendants of Icelanders, can contribute to the Canada of the future. This matter is closely related to the question of what is going to happen to the Icelandic element in this country. To answer that, I can only say that we can make a guess at this if the past is any guide to the future. If all the non-English speaking national groups that I have come into contact with were arranged in order of their assimilability, I should say that the Icelanders come first, as the most readily assimilable group. This is, perhaps, natural, since there are no real barriers of race, religion, or general outlook on life that separate us from the Anglo-Saxons. Assimilability is advantageous to the individual because as soon as he is indistinguishable from the dominant element in the country he is no longer discriminated against. But it is obvious that once we Icelanders have become assimilated to the extent that we have lost consciousness of our Icelandic heritage, we are no longer in a position to transmit that heritage either to our descendants or to others in this country.

There is no question that our forebears brought with them to this country an important heritage. They brought a literature that was flourishing when most of Europe was merely emerging from the Dark Ages; and they brought with them a strong trad-

ition of political and religious freedom. The Icelandic farmers who pulled up their roots and transplanted themselves in this continent were a highly literate, I might even say an educated, group. I well remember the Sunday afternoons when they and their wives would gather at my parents' home. The discussions that took place rarely dealt with daily tasks but, to my fascination, they ranged over the whole realm of literature, philosophy, religion, and such science as they knew. Many of these people were no mean judges of poetry, and some of them composed it. I did not realize that these characteristics were peculiarly Icelandic until I came into close association with other national groups.

It is the realization of this Icelandic heritage, and the desire to preserve it and transmit it to others, that led to the foundation of a Chair of Icelandic Studies at the University of Manitoba. How successful this venture of preserving our heritage will be only the future can tell. There are certain things that can be done. First, we can attempt to see to it that this heritage is not forgotten by our own descendants. Second, we can, through the medium of scholarship, call the attention of the learned people of this country to the treasures of Icelandic and Norse literature. The Canadian Learned Societies, which meet every year early in June, are one means of transmission. Third, we can attempt to use the popular press to keep the Canadian and American public conscious of Icelandic literature and history.

Let us now consider the second topic I raised, that is: What would we like Canada to be? The idea of nationalism has been abroad in the world for the past several hundred years; and it is

only natural that we should assume that Canada should be made into still another nation with a national sentiment of its own, a distinctive literature and institutions, and even ways of thinking that differ from those of other nations. If such a nationally distinctive Canada should arise, it would be built up from contributions of the numerous national and racial groups that are now in the process of being welded into some sort of unity.

But, to my mind, there are obstacles in the road, perhaps insuperable obstacles. To begin with, this is a bilingual country—French and English—and the French element number about one third of our population. This French element has already many of the characteristics of a nation: a language that differs appreciably from that of France; a strong group consciousness and sense of tradition; a general attitude towards life that is not French, British, or American but distinctively French Canadian; and a loyalty that is centred principally on French Canada.

No such sense of national solidarity has, as yet, grown up in English-speaking Canada; and, it seems to me, that there are formidable obstacles to its development in the near future. We have been, and are at present, subject to two very powerful extraneous influences: the British and the American. The British influence has shaped many of our institutions according to British models; it has given us a considerable feeling of loyalty to the Crown, and to the British Commonwealth of Nations, now called The Commonwealth of Nations; and it has given many Canadians the feeling that we are principally a trans-Atlantic outgrowth of Britain, as we indeed are, historically, in a large sense. Even more potent, I believe, is

the American influence. We drive in American automobiles, our homes are filled with American gadgets; much of our industry is controlled by American capital; we read American magazines and pocket books to the extent that it is very difficult for any Canadian literature to develop and find its way into our homes. To many Canadians (too many in my view) southern California is the Promised Land and Florida the winter paradise specially designed to make the long Canadian winter more bearable.

With these powerful influences at work, what are the chances that we can develop a distinctive culture that will be truly Canadian? Frankly, I feel that our chances are not nearly as good as, say, those of Australia and New Zealand whose isolation has worked in their favor, in that respect.

And even if we do overcome these obstacles and do manage, somehow, to create a distinctive Anglo-Canadian culture, we still have this problem to face, that the outcome would be that we would have two different national cultures in the one country—one French-Canadian and one Anglo-Canadian, or at least Anglo-Canadian in the sense that English would be its language.

The unification of these two elements into one national culture is not inconceivable, but to achieve it we would have to become a truly bilingual country. It could be done. Switzerland is a proof of that. But we, in Canada, have scarcely begun to think of making the effort. At present, the outlook is not promising.

This may seem a gloomy outlook, if our professed aim is to create a single, truly national culture. But I should like to raise this question: Is this really an essential objective—one conforming

to the realities of the world we are living in?

While I am not a historian, I have a strong liking for looking at things in historical perspective. I think we tend to take it for granted that nationalism is a permanent, and highly desirable, factor in human affairs. But is it, really? I think that is a question that should be approached with an open mind.

Perhaps we should not proceed farther without some attempt to define nationalism. This, I realize, is difficult. It involves many things. It involves a solidarity, usually in a group speaking the same language; a loyalty in that group to its own culture and its own traditions; and the obverse is, very often, an antagonism to other groups that are in contact with it. It rests, I think, on a sense of loyalty which seems to be an inherent characteristic of Man. In early days, this sense of loyalty was attached to the tribe and its chiefs; in classical times it was attached principally to small units such as the city states of Greece. And in Renaissance Italy it was attached to city states of Florence or Venice or Milan. With the development of nations, as we know them today, such as France and England, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, this sense of group solidarity and loyalty was transferred to the State, and there it has remained to the present time. Nationalism has given to the world splendid national cultures, such as those of France, Germany, and England; or, perhaps, I should rather say that these splendid cultures have gone hand in hand with nationalism. In our own day we have seen one of these splendid national cultures in the process of development in our great neighbor to the south.

These national cultures have given us many of the finest things that Man has produced, though I sometimes feel that many of these fine things would have been produced even if there had been no feeling of nationalism. There is no question that this loyalty and the love of country that stems from it are among the most powerful emotional forces of our time. We see them in the poetry and music of our time—as in Kipling's *Recessional*, in Sibelius' *Finlandia*. And perhaps nowhere are they more forcibly expressed than in Icelandic poetry: as in *O Gud Vors Lands* where the poetry and the music are equally impressive, or in the tender nostalgia of Stephan G. Stephansson when he thinks of Iceland.

Dó þú langföruð legðir
sérhvert land undir fót,
bera hugur og hjarta
samt þíns heimalands mót.

Fjarst í eilífðar útsæ
vakir eylandan þín;
nóttlaus voraldrar veröld
þar sem víðsýnið skín.

But nationalism has also its darker side; pride of national achievement, however justified it may be, can be shaped and diverted into unworthy channels. We have had the recent example of Hitler's Germany.

Until recently, nationalism, as a force in human affairs, was confined to the white nations. In the last few years we have seen it sweeping across Asia and Africa. How beneficial this movement will be for humanity as a whole I shall not attempt to say.

But if the formation of a truly national, Canadian culture is difficult, is there any other path that we could

follow that would give us a feeling of pride of achievement as a national group? Personally, I think there is.

If we could come back to this earth 2000 years from now, or perhaps only 500 years from now, I think we would find an entirely different state of human affairs. The warring national cultures of today, which will fight devastating wars rather than yield an inch by negotiation will, let us hope, be a thing of the past. The great states of today might still retain their names, perhaps their languages and some national characteristics, but they would have yielded their right to destroy one another. If we do not find that, we would find a situation described in a famous passage from Thomas Wolfe: "a desolate, deserted earth where only the ruin of man's cities remained, where only a few marks and carvings of his hand were legible upon his broken tablets, where only a wheel lay rusting in the desert sand."

Some solution must be made of this problem of national and ideological conflicts if the human race is to survive. The first fumbling attempts have been made by the old League of Nations which perished in the days of Hitler and Mussolini, and by the United Nations which is struggling with this problem at the present time. And, in this connection, we should not forget our own Commonwealth of Nations which is setting an example of what can be done in the way of bringing nations together in an amicable relationship. Perhaps as a leading partner in that experiment we are particularly fitted to play an important part in the larger experiment. We are also peculiarly fitted for this task because we are a conglomerate nation embodying elements from most of the

nations of Europe and, to a lesser extent, from Asiatic countries. Since we have not yet plotted our destiny, we could scarcely find a worthier task than to attempt a leading role in bringing the nations of the world together into some sort of workable international organization

If this is to be our objective, are we people of Icelandic descent in a favourable position to play a significant part in this effort? In the affirmative there is at least this to be said: We have not brought to this country any attachment to any of the great antagonists in the struggle for power. We can whole-

heartedly subscribe to any effort that Canada may make: and since we, in spite of our small numbers, are not always without influence, we may even help to shape the direction of this effort. Let me close by expressing the hope that Canada may assume a leadership in the worthy task of bringing amity among nations, and may I express the further hope that we of Icelandic descent may take our place among the foremost in this effort.

NOTE—Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson, P.H.D., F.R.S.C. is Head of the Canadian Department of Agriculture Research Laboratory in Winnipeg.



Vice-President of Cunningham Chain of Drug Stores



P. H. Erling Bjarnason

A short time ago Mr. George T. Cunningham, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cunningham Drug Stores Ltd. announced the appointment of Mr. P. H. Erling Bjarnason as Vice-President of the Cunningham

chain of drug stores in British Columbia and at the same time announced that Mr. Bjarnason had been promoted to the position of Manager of the Retail Stores Division. Mr. Bjarnason, a graduate in Pharmacy from the University of British Columbia, joined the Company in 1937 and has held the positions of Store Manager, Merchandising Manager and Sales Manager, and is a Director of the Company which has 49 retail stores with an annual turnover of about ten million dollars. The Company also controls one of the largest wholesale drugs manufacturing and laboratory on the continent.

Erling Bjarnason is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bjarnason, of Vancouver, formerly of Wynyard, Sask. Erling's wife, nee Evelyn Jonasson, is a daughter of Ole Jonasson and the late Mrs. Jonasson, of Wynyard, Sask. They have four children and their home is in Vancouver, B. C.

ICELAND

by ROBERT JACK



Auðunarstaður (Authun's Stead) in Iceland

Standing the other day on a wind-swept ridge of my glebe land in the north of Iceland, I looked east towards the snow covered mountains of Vithi (Broad) Valley. Through my miniature glass I could see the outline of the lonely farm, Authunarstathir which strangely enough, has a substantial link not only with Scotland but with the British Commonwealth, now known as the Commonwealth of Nations.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is in direct lineage with Authun, the Viking who lived there at the dawn of Iceland's history and after whom the farm and its land still retain their names. Genealogists have traced the connection between Her Majesty and Authun and it is now known that Queen Elizabeth is the thirty-fourth link from the Viking pioneer who sailed from the Outer Hebrides in the tenth century to settle in Iceland. Authun was the son of an Earl. In the north of Iceland he was a chieftain of great wealth and was known for his wit and literary ability.

The Broad Valley has always had a diligent, independent honourable sheep farming community. I know most of them and some can trace their descent back to Authun. The story is told that when her Majesty was crowned one of those loveable people sent her a telegram of congratulations and signed it "your cousin from Vithi Valley!"

Until the end of the 13th century communications between Iceland and Scotland were easy. Scotia was only 500 miles away and the Icelandic settlers, a roving people, sailed to many other countries of Europe, as far as Constantinople, where they recited their lyrics and told their many tales at the Courts of Kings and Noblemen. In those days there was no language barrier and Norse was understood in Scotland. In the Sagas, the immortal classics of Iceland, Scotland is referred to, hundreds of times, with romance and adventure.

It was Scotland which gave Iceland her first Viking Christians who had acquainted themselves previously in the Outer Hebrides or Southern Isles as they were then called with a flourishing Celtic Christianity. But after the alliance with Norway in 1262 and later with the Danes, Iceland's interests turned to the other Scandinavian countries. After the Reformation the country was a colony of Denmark and it was not until in the 19th century that Scottish sheep dealers could open up some commerce with the Icelanders. Until the outbreak of the First World War these dealers bought Icelandic sheep and shipped them to Scotland

where they were fattened for marketing purposes.

During that period attention was drawn to the Icelandic pony, a sturdy and surefooted little beast which the Vikings had shipped with them from Scotland and Norway. A hundred years ago the first shipment of 1,500 head was brought to Leith and sold by private auction to East Fife pits. The highest export figures were reached in 1899 when over 6,000 ponies were sold to Scottish and North of England mines. Now the tractor and jeep age in Iceland is doing away with the ponies which, however, still exist in great numbers, the best of them being used for sports riding and racing.

Within recent years Scotland has supplied Iceland with ships and trawlers and big orders have been placed in the hands of Scottish industry for machinery and textiles. The development of air travel has brought the two countries closer together and Iceland-air, with officers in Glasgow, fly into Renfrew three times a week.

Today few Scots live in Iceland. Before the second World War there were only five residents, two men and three women. Since then the addition has been about the same and it comprises former British troops who came back to Iceland after being stationed here during the war. The oldest Scot both in years and in time of residence is Mrs. Lizzie Halldorson, a farmer's wife in the north of Iceland. She came here over fifty years ago as a young bride from Edinburgh and is now almost ninety.

But there are many Scots who, throughout the years have had "one foot" in Iceland and shown much interest in her cultural life. Beyond a doubt the most well-known of those personalities was the late Sir William Craigie.

Few—Icelandic or otherwise—knew the Icelandic language better than he. He had also a great understanding of the Icelandic people. He once told me that on an average, taking in the population of the country which is only 160,000, the Icelandic nation was the most intelligent he had known. Sir William Craigie's knowledge of the Old Norse Rhymes was unsurpassed and his three volume book on the Icelandic Rhymes is a classical work which will share an honourable place on Ancient Icelandic Prose.

Although not a "pure" Scot Lord Dufferin was a Celt of no mean order, and the Icelanders who immigrated to Canada in 1875 owe a lot to him. Shortly before that time he had travelled in Iceland and completed his now famous book "Letters From High Latitude". When the Icelandic settlers in Manitoba began their pioneering work Lord Dufferin had been newly posted to Ottawa as the Governor General of Canada. Through profound admiration for the Icelanders he helped them, in many ways, to establish themselves in their new home. He is remembered with gratefulness for his subsidy of cattle to the farmers of North New Iceland at a time when government help for agriculture was unknown in that great Dominion.

The early Norwegian Vikings introduced the Glíma or Norse wrestling in Scotland and in a later age the Scots helped to introduce Association Football in Iceland, now its favourite summer sport. Before the First World War a former manager of Hibernian F. C. in Edinburgh, Mr. Templeton, encouraged the Icelanders in Reykjavik to play the Scottish type of football. Later, after the last war, a young man from the capital town, Albert Gudmundsson, came to Glasgow and play-

ed for the Rangers F.C. and later finished his career with the Arsenal and the Racing Club of Paris. Recently, Mr. R. H. Davidson, of Airdrie, assisted by two Scottish linesmen, refereed matches in Reykjavik when Iceland played international games against France and Belgium.

To me the most imposing list contains the names of Icelanders from Scottish Universities. Young men who, between the wars and after the last one, studied zoology, engineering, agriculture, architecture, science, and arts at Glasgow and Edinburgh, are today serving their country in various capacities. Occasionally I meet some of

them who love to switch over to speak to me in the dialects they learned in Scotland. The Icelander speaks a colourful Doric, pleasant to the ear—it is the Celt in him.

There are many links between Scotland and Iceland, and their forging has lasted a thousand years.

NOTE—It is recorded in the Book of Settlement that Auðun was the great grandson of Ragnar Loðbrók, an ancestor of many kings, and that Saint Olaf, of Norway, was a fourth descendant of Auðun.

Rev. Robert Jack, it will be recalled, born and raised in Scotland, studied for the ministry in Iceland and for some years served the Lutheran Congregation in Arborg, Manitoba. He is now serving in Northern Iceland. —ED.

Oscar Brandson Repeats High Score as Buttermaker



Oscar Brandson

Oscar Brandson, the buttermaker at the North Star Co-operative Creamery at Arborg, after winning more prizes and trophies for his creamery in 1956 than any other buttermaker in Canada, again made an excellent show-

ing at the competition in 1959. He won the T. Eaton Co. Silver Cup for lowest mould and yeast count in butter. For highest percentage of highest score for 1958 samples he won: Thorkelson Ltd. first prize; Bathurst Containers Ltd., St. Boniface, first prize and E. B. Jensen of Carman, Silver Trophy. He also won a Silver Cup for highest total flavor score, and the De Laval Co. Ltd. second prize, a beautiful carving set.

The Arborg Chamber of Commerce honoured Brandson with a reception, on his return, in the Town Hall. He has been six years a buttermaker at the North Star Creamery which is the oldest Co-operative Creamery in Manitoba. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1957. Mr. Brandson is the son of Sigurdur and Jodis (Bjornson) Brandson of Arborg. See Icel. Can. Winter 1957.

The Icelandic Celebration

The prominent theme at the Icelandic Celebration at Gimli, August 3, was that this was the seventieth anniversary of the celebration. The founders of the day who promoted the gathering in Victoria Park in Winnipeg in 1890 would indeed have been deeply moved had they known that the seedling they were then planting was destined to be in rich bloom seventy years later.

Chairman of the day this year was Professor Haraldur Bessason, Head of the Department of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. He spoke briefly in both Icelandic and English.

The Fjallkona, Mrs. Eric Stefanson, of Gimli, in her beautiful Icelandic costume and with the large Icelandic landscape panel paintings in the background, expressed the deep concern of the Icelandic motherland for the well-being of her offspring in the Western World. The two princesses of the day were Miss Lynette Einarson and Miss Diane Magnusson, of Gimli.

Traditional greetings were conveyed: from the Manitoba Government, on behalf of Premier Duff Roblin, by Honorable George Johnson; a cablegram from Asgeir Asgeirsson, the President of Iceland; from the Icelandic National League, conveyed by the President, Dr. Richard Beck, who also brought greetings from the Icelandic Consul, Mr. Grettir Johannsson; from the town of Gimli, conveyed by Mayor Barney Egilson; and from the Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, conveyed by Eric Stefanson, M.P.

The Toast to Iceland was delivered by the Honorable Joseph T. Thorson, President of the Exchequer Court of Canada, who had once previously performed the same task, forty-six years ago, just after his return from Oxford University. His excellent enunciation of Icelandic was a matter of some wonderment to the audience, considering the many years he has been away from the Icelandic community.

The Toast to Canada was given by Thorvaldur Johnson, F.R.C.S.; M. Sc., Ph.D., of Winnipeg. His was a thoughtful address, compact and clearly enunciated, but it came near the end of a two and a half hour program, when the audience had begun to break up and friends and relatives were exchanging greetings and renewing acquaintances. Once again the need for a shorter program was painfully evident.

A traditional feature of the day's program is an original poem. David Bjornsson of Winnipeg, recited a poem by himself, in Icelandic, to Iceland, and in the spirit of the day.

The musical part of the program was excellent. The duets and solos by Reverend and Mrs. Eric Sigmar were delightful. The local Children's Choir, a goodly assembly of eighteen, were well trained and gave a very fine performance. Their command of the Icelandic was a pleasure to hear. The Air Force band from the Gimli R.C.A.F. station made a valuable contribution with a number of stirring selections.

One of Mrs. Sigmar's solos was Love's Rapture. The original poem was by

the noted Icelandic lyric poet, Jónas Hallgrímsson, the translation by Mrs. Jakobina Johnson, and the music by Professor S. K. Hall, who, incidentally, was present in the Pioneers' Pavilion.

The evening sing-sing, with songs Icelandic and English, is ever a thoroughly enjoyable feature of the day. This time, the sing-song was led by Reverend Eric Sigmar, with Mrs. Ken Honey at the piano, and it featured

a fine quartette, the Ovaltones, from St. Stephen's Church, St. James.

The tradition of the Icelandic Celebration is being maintained by successive generations. Present this day were people of Icelandic descent to the third and fourth generations. Said twelve year old third generation Nancy, visiting from Cornwall, Ontario, "I want to be Queen some day".

W. Kristjanson

Irish Girl Marries Minister in Iceland

A manse in a lonely part of Iceland became the home for 23-year-old Miss Janet Smiley who was married in Donegall Square Methodist Church in Belfast, Ireland, last spring. Her husband is Rev. Asgeir Ingibergsson, a Lutheran minister from Reykjavik.

The place is Hvammur in Dalasysla in western Iceland, steeped in history and early lore that, strangely, goes back to Ireland and Scotland.

It is recorded that the Norwegian chief, Olaf the White, ruled at Dublin, now the capital city of Eire, from 852 to 871. He married Audur Djupudga Ketilsdottir.

Olaf later ruled in northern Scotland an area which included Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Murray.

After Olaf's death his son, Thorsteinn, ruled these areas but was, however, soon killed in battle.

Soon after Thorsteinn's death Audur took her grandchildren, five princesses and Prince Olaf, to Iceland. She married off one of the six granddaughters in the Orkneys, one in the Faroe Islands, and the other four to prominent men in Iceland. She, meanwhile, established her home at Hvammur and, one of the few Christians among the

pioneers of Iceland, she followed the common practice of giving slaves liberty and settling them on land.

That is the historical aspect. Now back to the wedding in Belfast. Asgeir Ingibergsson's brother, Gunnar, came from Reykjavik for the ceremony. Officiating at the wedding was Rev. Dr. W. L. Northridge, assisted by Rev. Dr. C. Ranson and Rev. M. L. Ferrar. Miss Smiley carried an Icelandic prayer book to which was attached a spray of white gladioli tips. She was given away by her father.

The romance began and blossomed in Dublin. There Janet, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James A. Smiley, Belfast, was studying for her B.A. degree at Trinity College. Mr. Ingibergsson was there as a post-graduate student. A social worker up till her marriage, she will assist her husband in his parochial work. Said she: "I think being a minister's wife will be a full time job for me now."

She had been to Iceland to see her new home and said it "was lovely". She did not fear homesickness. "It's only a three-hour journey by plane," she said, "so I'll be back to Belfast now and then."

LEO B. BARDARSON

It used to be argued that, in order to become good Canadians or good Americans, immigrants from other lands must consider it one of their duties to divest themselves, as fast as possible, of every attachment to the land of their origin. The fallacy of this argument has now been generally admitted. To cherish with love and respect the memory of his kin and the cultural heritage with which it has endowed him means, simply, that a man is determined to be true to himself and, being true to himself, he proves thereby his capacity for loyalty the loyalty of a free man. Such people come to their new homelands, not as empty-handed beggars, but as those bearing precious gifts of character and culture for the enrichment of new nations still in the making. Many an Icelandic immigrant has, as have also those of other lands, born living testimony to the truth of this. It is both the duty and the privilege of their children to preserve all that is of lasting value in their inheritance and to make it fruitful in their own lives and in the national life of which they have become a part.

These thoughts come readily to mind when one remembers Leo Bardarson, for they formed the solid base of his character and gave direction to his life.

Leo was born in Winnpieg, January 21, 1895. His father was Sigurdur Bardarson, the widely known, self-taught healer, who gave unstintingly of himself in the service of the sick among the Icelandic pioneers. He was also a master woodworker. He loved the Icelandic language and literature and

was well versed therein, more especially in the older literature. And he did considerable research work on Icelandic genealogies. Leo's mother was Gudrun Davidsdottir, a kindly, completely self-effacing woman, whose great qualities of heart and mind went largely unnoticed because she spent herself so entirely unquestioningly in the service of others.

The family moved to Blaine, Washington in 1906, where Leo continued his formal education through High School. He then left home to make his own way in the world. He spent a year in Alaska, working with the United States Geodetic Survey. Shortly thereafter he entered the service of the Seattle First National Bank, first as Teller but later as head of the Foreign Exchange Department. He was twice married. By his first wife, Louise Lawson, he had one daughter, Helen Louise, now Mrs. Thomas G. Hammond. They live in Seattle and have one son named Guy Albert.

About the year 1945 Leo moved to California. There he married his second wife, Pauline Johnson, a registered nurse of good Icelandic parentage. Here he worked for some time as a Building Inspector. During his last years he suffered much ill health. But it was then his great good fortune to be nursed by the competent and loving hands of a woman—his wife. He died July 29th, last Summer (1958).

Although Leo never had set foot on Iceland's soil he felt a strong filial attachment to the land of his fathers. To him it was the land of the vikings and skalds of old; the land of saga and song; the land of frost and fire; the

enchanted isle; the Shangrila of his dreams. And he was proud to be its son. He found both wisdom and beauty in its language and literature. In the Summer of 1952 he sent a gift of 125 Icelandic books to the University of Iceland. Letters of thanks and appreciation for this gift are now among the valued possessions of Leo's widow.

A big, handsome, kindly man; a man of intelligence, asking questions and

seeking light on the mystery of life; a dreamer of a brighter future for humanity; an attractive, and sometimes provocative personality; a true son of his father and mother and proud of it. And by that very token, a good American. Such was Leo Bardarson, The memory of him will linger long and be fondly cherished by those who knew him and loved him.

Albert E. Kristjansson

BOOK REVIEWS

The following review of Guttormur J. Guttormsson's book *Canada Thistle* by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell appeared in the Summer number of *The University of Toronto Quarterly*. This magazine is grateful to the *Toronto Quarterly* and to Dr. Watson Kirkconnell for their permission to reprint this review. The reference to alliteration in Icelandic poetry is timely for some of our younger readers.

CANADA THISTLE,

Kanadapistill

by Guttormur J. Guttormsson,

Reviewed by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell

The chief volume of poetry in this year's roster is *Canada Thistle*, by the veteran Icelandic-Canadian poet Guttormur J. Guttormsson. Born in the interlake colony in Manitoba in 1878, Mr. Guttormsson was publicly honoured in Winnipeg last autumn on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. It is fitting that yet another volume of significant poetry from his hand should indicate that the old volcano is still in eruption.

Non-Icelandic readers need, perhaps, to be reminded that alone among the Germanic nations the Icelanders have preserved the strict alliterative prosody of their remote ancestors. Every verse-form of Western Europe has been borrowed by them, but upon all of these they have superimposed a rigid pattern of consonance. The opening lines of Guttormur's poetic preface, translated into his prosodic form, will demonstrate the point:

D'ye ken the Canada thistle
That covers the land with its harm
And chokes out the choicest harvest
To challenge the pioneer's farm?

Worst of all weeds is that thistle
To the wit of a farmer at bay,
In spite of the Russian species
That spatters his fields today . . .

Or a stanza from his "Husky" illustrates the same point:

Husky and hiemal wolf
Lawless and lean, when they meet
They leap like a flame together.
Are haters in any weather;

Some of his life-long interests appear in this volume. Thus the poem "Flat Denials" (pp. 69-77) involves a sociological attack on the administration of criminal law in North America. The same sort of satirical comment is found in the thirty strophes of "Hence and Beyond." The humour is broader in "On a Borrowed Horse" and "Undertakers' Business."

His power over intricate patterns of verse is particularly noteworthy in the twelve-line stanzas of "Atomic Skill" (pp. 14-16) and in the clanging consonantal masses of "The Craggy Mountain" (pp. 20-2). In "The

Daughter of Aiah," he gives an original twist to the story of Rizpah, best known in one of Tennyson's grimmest and least characteristic poems. There are several personal and occasional poems but Non-Icelanders would find more interest in the brief one-stanza epigrams of the "Stutt og Stakt" section. One whimsical example might, without attempting the alliteration, be rendered thus:

I'm fond of song and wine and wife;
And if God grants another life,
I hope to love a dame whose plan
Of worship is not Lutheran.

STUDIES IN HEROIC LEGEND AND IN CURRENT SPEECH

Kemp Malone

Edited by Stefán Einarsson
and Norman E. Eliason.

Copenhagen, Rosenkilde and
Bagger, 1959.

On 14 March 1959, Kemp Malone, Professor Emeritus of John Hopkins University, celebrated his seventieth birthday. In honour of this occasion his colleagues and former students published this festschrift, which consists of a collection of his papers on various subjects reflecting two of his main scholarly interests.

Professor Malone is one of the most distinguished philologists of our era, working chiefly in the fields of Anglo-Saxon, Middle English, Icelandic and Germanic literature. He did graduate work at the universities of Copenhagen, Iceland, and Princeton. After teaching at other universities he came to Johns Hopkins in 1924 and was professor there for thirty years from 1926 to 1956, when he was made

professor emeritus. He has published innumerable scholarly works.

There are nineteen papers in the present volume. The majority of them deal largely with the poetry and literature which stem from the so-called Heroic Age of the Germanic peoples. They are not popular reading but are rather scholarly studies written by a scholar for scholars in this field. This is not to say that the non-expert will not find many of them interesting and stimulating especially if he has some acquaintance with Anglo-Saxon poetry, such as *Beowulf* (on which prof. Malone is a leading authority), the heroic verse of the Germanic peoples, much of it preserved in Icelandic, and Saxo Grammaticus. Most of these papers deal not only with philological problems but also with historical ones, and it is often fascinating to see what information and conclusions Prof. Malone is able to draw from an obscure reference or two, in widely separated sources, to persons or events otherwise buried in the silence which covers so much of the Heroic Age.

The last three papers are more purely philological. They are entitled: "Etymologies for *Hamlet*," "The Phonemes of Current English," and "The Phonemes of Modern Icelandic." There follows a list of the writings of Prof.

Malone since 1948, containing the titles of some 70 articles and reviews and giving some idea of the prodigious output of this brilliant scholar. A useful index of proper names is appended to this learned work. **T. J. Oleson**

Beck, Richard: VIÐ LJÓÐALINDIR
Arni Bjarnarson, Akureyri, 1959
Pp 132.

Dr. Richard Beck is no doubt one of the most prolific writers of Icelandic descent in North America. He has written books and countless articles on Icelandic and Scandinavian literature. Furthermore he has lectured extensively on these and other subjects during the last thirty years.

When considering all the effort Dr. Beck must have put into his scholarly work, it is, indeed, surprising that he has found time to write poetry. This is, however, the case and as early as in 1929 his first book of verses, *Ljóðmál* (Poems), was published in Winnipeg. In 1945 some of his poems in English were published, also in Winnipeg, under the title "A Sheaf of Verses". And finally, his third book of poetry, "*Við ljóðalindir*" (At the Poetic Fountains) was published in Iceland this year.

"*Við ljóðalindir*" is a collection of poems most of which have previously appeared in Icelandic papers and periodicals on both sides of the Atlantic. About eighty poems are included, and by the index alone one can easily see that the author by no means confines himself to a limited field of human experience.

No exhaustive classification will be attempted here, but the philosophical poems should be mentioned, some of which represent originality of thought and expression, as for instance "*Fiðrildið og ljósið*" (The Moth and the

Light). Patriotic and descriptive nature poems, however, constitute the greater part of this book. The author's love of his native tongue and his native country characterises many of these. Nowhere is this more evident than in poems about Icelandic pioneers in North America who acquitted themselves admirably under adverse circumstances. A good example of this is "*Spanish Fork*" (In Spanish Fork) which is, perhaps, the best poem in the whole collection.

It is a matter of common knowledge that all those who choose to express themselves within the elusive confines of poetry are bound to nod at times, and Dr. Beck is no exception to this rule. In spite of his good mastery of the traditional, metrical form, his poems are somewhat uneven in quality, especially in the matter of descriptive words and metaphors.

It is, however, not the purpose of the reviewer to point out insignificant or minor flaws. What is important is the fact that every word and every line in Dr. Beck's recent book bear witness to his positive outlook on life and to his unfailing and all-embracing goodwill and humanitarianism. Thus there is good reason to believe that the present work will be welcomed by many. It deserves the attention of all Icelanders who appreciate the sound philosophy it presents—the philosophy by which Dr. Beck himself has lived.

The author has most fittingly dedicated this work to the memory of his late wife, Mrs. Bertha Beck.

—**Haraldur Bessason**

Felagsbladið—Los Angeles

The August number of this interesting multigraphed monthly contains 9 pages. The editor is Hal Linker and associated with him in gathering news is Mrs. Gudny Thorwaldson.

About one half of this number is devoted to news from Iceland. These are not clippings but short pithy news items. The following are samples:

Result of June Election in Iceland:

In the election of June 28th the voting was as follows: Conservative Party—36,029 votes, Agrarian Party—23,062, Communists—12,929, Social Democrats—10,632. In the number of seats, the Social Democrats lost two seats and the Communists lost one seat, the Conservatives gained one seat, the Agrarians gained 2 seats.

Operetta is hit in Iceland—"The Beggar Prince" is being performed in Iceland at the National Theatre. It has a cast of 110 and is thought to be the biggest production ever put on in Iceland. It opened on June 24th and seems slated for a long run.

Fishing News—The Russians have reduced their purchase of Icelandic Salted Herring this year from the 150,000 they had been buying in 1957 and 1958 to 40,000 barrels for next season. East Germany has also not started its usual negotiations to buy herring as yet.

The following are typical local news.

Independence Day Celebrations—Iceland's Fifteenth year of Independence was marked in Los Angeles by a very

successful Independence Day Celebration. The Gala Event was held on Saturday June 20th at the Old Dixie Restaurant and a fine attendance of 120 members and their friends agreed almost unanimously that it was a most enjoyable occasion. One of the highlights of the evening was the Folk Singing of a young man named Paul Sykes, who captivated the audience with his fine voice and moving ballads. By request, Hal Linker presented a new color film of Iceland called **Vikings of Iceland**, one of his Television series.

Honors: Stanley T. Olafson, manager of the World Trade Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, was honored recently by the Belgian government for his efforts in the stimulation of increased international commerce. Mr. Olafson who observed his 30th anniversary with the Chamber on July 1, received the Cross of Chevalier of the Order of the Crown from Belgian Consul General George Barthelemy in the name of King Baudoin. The presentation was made July 21 during a reception in observance of Belgium's National Day.

Miss Iceland Feted—The reception held at the Parel Grandle home in Long Beach, Sunday afternoon, August 2nd, to honor Miss Iceland—Miss Sigridur Thorvaldsdottir, was a very enjoyable affair. Those in charge were prepared to serve 150 people, but over 225 attended. However, the committee in charge rose to the occasion in a fine manner thanks to Mrs. Summi Swanson and her daughter, Mrs. Grandle.

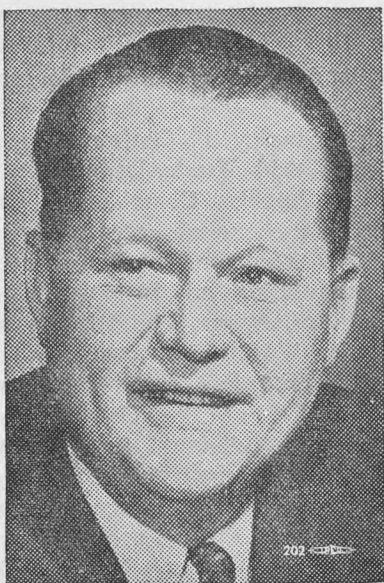
The vice president spoke a few words of welcome, and then turned the program over to Mrs. Swanson, who in her able manner took over, and presented Miss Iceland with a trophy from the Icelandic Club. Miss Thorvaldson responded in very good English and in

Icelandic expressing her appreciation for the gift and the opportunity to meet so many of our group.

A male quartette who call themselves the Beach Chords, entertained with singing. Incidentally, one of them was Freeman Gudmundson's son.

IN THE NEWS

VALDIMAR BJORNSON ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION



Valdimar Bjornson

Valdimar Bjornson, Minnesota State Treasurer, was elected trustee at the meeting in May of the Board of Trustees of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Mr. Bjornson has had a long and distinguished career as a newspaperman and politician in the State of Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Summa Cum Laude in 1930 and during the Second World War served with the United States navy in Iceland

with distinction and, in recognition of his contribution to the allied war effort, was decorated by the Icelandic and Norwegian governments. Mr. Bjornson has long been active in the Minneapolis Chapter of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. He is on the Editorial Board of the new amalgamated weekly *Lögberg-Heimskringla* and has at all times taken a keen interest in Icelandic affairs and has frequently spoken at Icelandic functions in Manitoba and elsewhere.

★

JOHN THORDARSON NAMED AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE

John Thordarson, a graduate in agriculture of the University of Manitoba, has been named agricultural representative for the Fisher-Bifrost area in the Interlake region of Manitoba. His headquarters will be at Arborg. Mr. Thordarson was born and raised at Westbourne, Man., and received his education in Manitoba schools and the university.

★

RECEIVES AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT

It has lately been announced that the Manitoba Government has appointed Albert L. Kristjanson as Regional Extension Co-ordinator for south-eastern Manitoba. His work is to estimate all possibilities for im-

proving agricultural developments there.

Mr. Kristjanson was born in Gimli. He is a son of the late Hannes Kristjanson, and Mrs. (Elin) Kristjanson. He won the degree of B.S.A. at the Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., and that of M.A. in Agriculture at the University of North Dakota. Later this year he will complete a thesis on (Rural) Sociology, which will apply towards his Doctor's degree.

★

PLANS FOR MANITOBA MEDICAL CENTRE MATERIALIZING



Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson

Plans for the Manitoba Medical Centre which have been under consideration since 1943 are beginning to assume more definite form. The building programme centres upon the Winnipeg General Hospital and a large area west of the hospital will be acquired to accommodate the many medical buildings contemplated. The Medical Centre now includes the Winnipeg General Hospital, the Winnipeg

Children's Hospital, the Manitoba Medical College, the Cancer Foundation and the Manitoba Sanitation Board. Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson is chairman of the planning committee.

★

SELKIRK LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 70th ANNIVERSARY

The 70th anniversary of the Icelandic Lutheran Church at Selkirk, Man. was celebrated last June 21, when officiating clergymen were Rev. Edward A. Day at the morning service and Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson at the evening service. A reception followed in the Lutheran Hall. The Selkirk congregation was formed June 9, 1889, Mattias Thordarson its first president and Larus Helgason its first secretary. The first church board was elected in 1890 and the group incorporated in 1891 as The Evangelical Church of Selkirk. Ministers of the church through the years were Rev. Magnus J. Skaptason from 1889 to 1891, Rev. Fridrik J. Bergman in 1893, Rev. Oddur V. Gisla-son from 1895 to 1898, Rev. N. S. Thorlakson from 1899 to 1927, Rev. Jonas A. Sigurdson from 1927 to 1933, Rev. B. Theodore Sigurdson from 1934 to 1937, Rev. Carl J. Olson in 1936 and 1937, Rev. Valdimar J. Eylands in 1938, Rev. Johann Bjarnason from 1938 to 1940, Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson from 1940 to 1957, and Rev. Edward A. Day, incumbent since 1957.

CHRISTMAS BARGAIN

Your friends would appreciate a subscription to The Icelandic Canadian and a number of back issues which are offered at a reduced rate during Nov. and Dec. Gift subscriptions at \$1.00 per year and 57 back issues at 20c each. The following are not included in this offer: Vol. 1 No. 1 & 3, Vol. 2 No. 2 & 3, Vol 3 No. 1 & 3, Vol. 10 No 2, Vol 13 No. 2, Vol 14 No3 & 4, Vol 15 No. 2. — We offer to purchase the following issues at \$1.00 per copy: Vol. 1 No 1 & 3, Vol. 2 No 2 & 3, Vol 15 No. 2.

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APPOINTED MANITOBA HOME ECONOMIST



Miss Joyce L. Borgford

Miss Joyce L. Borgford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Borgford, Arborg, Man., has been appointed a regional Manitoba Home Economist with headquarters at Boissevain. Her area of operations is a large section of the southwestern part of the province and includes the agricultural districts at Melita, Boissevain and Baldur. Her duties began August 15.

Miss Borgford was born at Arborg and received her public and high school education there. She was a member of Arborg 4-H Clothing Club for four years and junior leader for one.

At the University of Manitoba, where she graduated in home economics last spring, Miss Borgford participated in sports, debating and residence choir work and served on the Home Economics-Agriculture Joint Council for Student Affairs and was convener of the annual Home Economics Fashion Folio.

SON OF REV. KOLBEINN SIM- UNDSON ORDAINED



Daniel John Simundson

Following in his father's footsteps, Daniel John Simundson was ordained a Lutheran Minister in May by Dr. L. H. Steinhoff, president of the Pacific Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, in St. James Lutheran Church at Seattle, Wash., the church his father, Rev. Kolbeinn Simundson, served for 30 years before retiring a year ago.

Mr. Simundson graduated with distinction from Stanford University in 1955 and went on to the Lutheran College at Maywood, Ill. where he graduated with honors last spring.

He has now taken over the pastorate of Salem Lutheran Church at Mendon, Ill. .

★

Dr. Thorir Thordarson recently received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago and has since returned to Iceland where he was scheduled to begin teaching duties at the University of Iceland this fall.

Graduates, Scholarships, Award Winners

MANITOBA TEACHERS COLLEGE ICELANDIC GRADUATES 1958-59

The following graduated last June from Manitoba Teachers College. The names of the parents or husbands follow that of the graduate.

Bjarnason, Hulda Frances,
Box 131, Gimli,
Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Bjarnason

Brandson, (Mrs.) Karen Lois
Lundar, Manitoba,
E. Brandson

Danielson, (Mrs.) Dorothy Gayle,
Lundar, Manitoba,
Daniel K. Danielson

Eastman, Gladys Mae
Riverton, Manitoba
Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Eastman

Johannesson, Heida Joanne,
Box 130, Ashern, Manitoba,
Mr. and Mrs. Grimur Johannesson

Johnson, Marion Alda,
Whitehorse, Yukon,
Mr. and Mrs. O. Johnson

Magnusson, Haraldine Gudrun
Langruth, Manitoba,
Mr. and Mrs. G. Magnusson

Paulson, Hope Kristine,
Hecla, Manitoba
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Paulson

Sigurdson, Marilyn Einette
Arnes, Manitoba
Mr. and Mrs. August Sigurdson

Sigurdson, Thorberg,
Winnipegosis, Manitoba,
Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdur Sigurdson

Sigurjonsson, Enid Carole,
Manitou, Manitoba
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sigurjonsson.

Stefanson, Dennis Neil,
1025 Downing St., Winnipeg
Married. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Stefanson, Gimli, Manitoba

Thorarinson, Julia Martha,
Walkleyburg
Mr. and Mrs. Arni Thorarinson

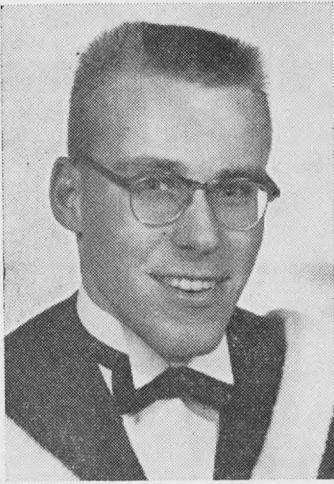
Tomasson, Margaret Lillian,
Hecla, Manitoba
Mr. and Mrs. Helgi G. Tomasson

Vigfusson, Gladys Lillian,
Riverton, Manitoba,
Mr. and Mrs. Ingimar S. Vigfusson

★

WINNER OF DOUPE MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL

Oscar Thor Sigvaldason graduated in Civil Engineering last spring and was the winner of the Doupe Memorial Gold Medal for second highest standing in the fourth year of Engineering. He took grade 11 and 12 at the high



Oscar Thor Sigvaldason

school at Arborg, Man. and topped these grades both years. He took active part in sports at the University and won some awards in that field, and also as sport convener in the University residence in 3rd year. In that year he was a member of the Junior Championship Basketball Team. He was awarded a \$500.00 Government Bursary at the end of third year.

Mr. Sigvaldason is employed at Calgary, Alberta, with Haddin, Davis & Brown Consulting Engineers. He is the son of Thorarinn Gudni and Adalbjorg (Simundson) Sigvaldason of Framnes near Arborg, Man.

★

DISTINGUISHED VETERINARY GRADUATE

Jon Gudmundson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gudmundson of Geysir, Man., was one of five out of 48 students who graduated with first class honors last spring at the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph. Dr. Gudmundson this summer opened a prac-



Dr. Jon Gudmundson

tice with a classmate, Dr. Dennis Meagher, at Morden, Man.

Born at Geysir he attended public school there and collegiate at Gimli. During his college years he won many academic honors including the Charles Duncan McGilvray award on entry, the Holstein-Friesen award in fourth year and Union Council Executive Award in fifth year.

★

WINS MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

June Bjornson of Winnipeg received Sept. 1 her degree of Master of Social Work at the Smith College School for Social Work in Northhampton, Mass., one of 45 students graduating there after three summers of academic work and two winters of field work in clinics and agencies.

Daughter of Mrs. Lilja Eyrikson Bjornson, 818 Dominion Street, Winnipeg, and the late Kristinn H. Bjornson, she was born at Saskatoon, Sask. and received her elementary and high



June Bjornson

school education in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia before coming to Winnipeg where she attended Jon Bjarnason Academy and the University of Manitoba.

★

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Gerald Einar Wilson

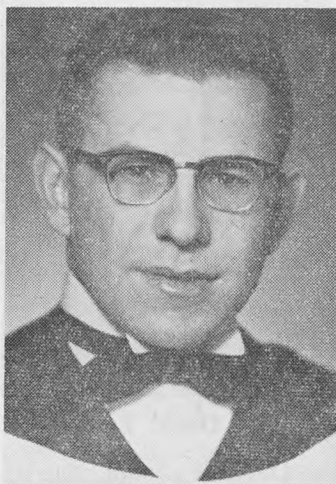
Gerald Einar Wilson, R. R. 2, Komoka, Ontario, was awarded a four hundred dollar bursary for his Grade 12 achievements. His course in Mechan-

ical Engineering was interrupted by enlistment in the R. C. A. F. during World War II. He served with the Canadian Bomber Command, which included three tours of Operations in Europe. He won the Permanent Pathfinder Award, and was awarded the D.F.C. and Bar.

He is married to the former Miss Helen Martens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Martens of Toronto, Ont., and London, England. Mr. Wilson is a graduate of the University of Toronto in Applied Science and Engineering, a graduate of the Siebel Institute of Technology, Chicago, a member of the Ontario Association of Professional Engineers, and a member of the Master Brewers' Association of America. He has been employed by John Labatt, London, Ontario, since 1950, in engineering and production.

Mr. Wilson's parents were raised at Markerville, Alberta. His mother was the former Miss Cecilia Stephenson, daughter of one of the first settlers, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stephenson.

★



William Joseph Stephenson

William Joseph Stephenson, graduated this year in Pharmacy from the

University of Alberta with First Class General Standing, and was awarded the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association Prize.

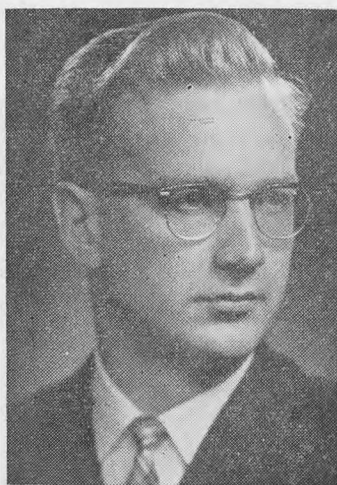
He won a First Class Standing Prize in both his first and second years. In his second year he also won the Burrough Welcome two hundred and fifty dollar bursary.

Mr. Stephenson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Einar Stephenson of Red Deer, Alberta.

★

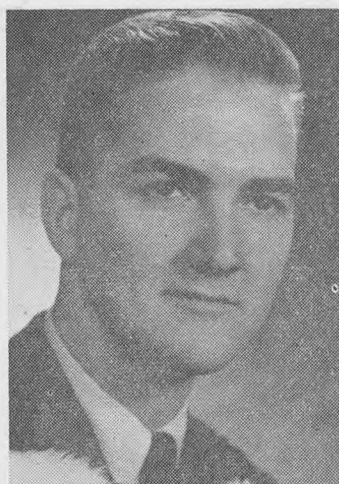
FIRST CLASS STUDENTS GRADUATE IN TORONTO

Two brothers, **Glenn David** and **Bernard L. Eastman**, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gunnsteinn Eastman, formerly of Riverton, Man., graduated with distinction last spring from the University of Toronto. Throughout their collegiate and university courses they both always obtained a high standing.



Glenn David Eastman

Glenn David Eastman matriculated from the Jarvis Collegiate Institute in Toronto in 1954 and in May 1959 obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Applied Sciences (B.A. Sc.) in Mining.

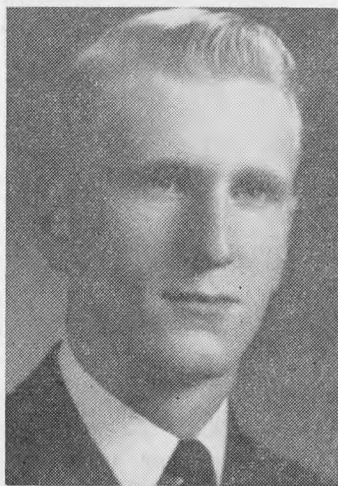


Bernard L. Eastman

Bernard L. Eastman, who won a bursary at the University of Toronto, matriculated from the Humber College in Toronto in 1953. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956, and his Bachelor of Law degree in the spring of 1959, both from the University of Toronto.

★

HONORS GRADUATE SERVED IN KOREA



John Vernon Josephson

John Vernon Josephson, graduated with honors from the U.S.A. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, in

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1949. He took further training in the Air Branch of the Navy at Pensacola, Florida. He served two years in the Korean war, flying hospital supplies between the U.S.A. and Japan. After the Korean war he was, for two years, instructor at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and then assigned for two years with the Air Branch on the Dew Line and the Newfoundland-Greenland sector, during which time he was twice stationed in Iceland during short periods. John is at present located at

Washington, D.C. assigned for two years as an assistant to the Admiral. John was born March 22, 1927, at Deer lodge, Montana. He is the son of the late Joseph T. Josephson and Clara (Hanson) Josephson, who is of Norwegian descent, formerly of Minnesota. His father served in the first World War, (See Hermannabók, page 248), he and Jón Ólafsson, poet and one time editor of Heimskringla were first cousins. Their mothers were sisters.

News Summary

Icelanders at Seattle, Wash., celebrated Islendingadagurinn, Iceland's national day, June 17. Fjallkonan (Maid of the Mountains) for the celebration this year was Mrs. Stella Miller who was born and raised in Iceland and is now the wife of Frank Miller, an American citizen.

★

A unique product of the United States international cultural exchange program was introduced at New York City last June when the Icelandic-American String Quartet presented a concert in the Donnell Library Auditorium there. Bjorn Olafsson, concert master of the National Symphony of Iceland, and his associate, Jon Sen, were joined with two members of the Boston Symphony, George Humphrey, violinist, and Karl Zeise, cellist, in the performing ensemble.

Having come together temporarily in Iceland almost by accident in 1956 the four men got together last year to present 13 concerts in Iceland. They reunited in New York this year to fill a 17-concert tour which took them, among other places, to the northwestern states and Canada. The tour ended

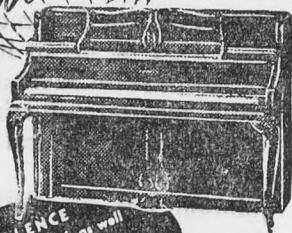
with a performance at the University of Wisconsin.

★

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Nordal of Selkirk, Man. celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 19 and to mark the occasion a family dinner was held in their honor at the home in Selkirk of their son Walter. They were married in the Icelandic Lutheran Church in Selkirk May 19, 1909 by the late Rev. N. S. Thorlakson. Of their seven children, five are living. They are sons August of God's Lake, Man., James of Penticton, B. C., and Walter, and daughters, Elene, Mrs. William Hartevelt of Selkirk, and Susanna, Mrs. Douglas Corbett, St. James, Man. There are ten grandchildren.

★

Arni G. Eggertson, prominent barrister of Winnipeg, Man., was re-elected for a two year term to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting last June in Iceland of the Icelandic Steamship Lines. Another Winnipeg man, Grettir Eggertson, also a director with another year to serve, attended the meeting.



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Picturesque Swedish Park in North Vancouver, B. C. was the setting for the colorful Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 26, 27 and 28, sponsored by the Scandinavian Central Committee and its 15 affiliated organizations there. This has become a traditional meeting place for those of Nordic descent in the lower mainland of British Columbia. The three-day program included music and folk dancing, a Midsummer Queen contest and a Children's Day program with games, races and free movies for the youngsters, also an open air concert in Lind Bowl and a Midsummer Eve Dance in the pavilion. Festival group president is Carl Erickson.

★

Dr. Edward Johnson, medical superintendent of Selkirk Hospital for Mental Diseases, was appointed provincial psychiatrist for Manitoba this summer on the retirement of Dr. T. A. Pincock who held the post for 17 years. Dr. Johnson took over his new duties Sept. 1.

A native of Manitoba Dr. Johnson was born in East Kildonan in 1902, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gudmundur Johnson, and received his elementary and

high school education in the province. He studied medicine at the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1928. Subsequently he took post graduate studies in psychiatry at Boston Psychopathic Hospital, Boston, Mass., and John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

It was in 1931 he began his service at Selkirk Hospital for Mental Diseases as assistant medical superintendent. He was appointed medical superintendent in 1943.

Dr. Johnson was married in 1931 to the former Eleanor Cadwell Emes of Winnipeg. They have two daughters, Arlene, Mrs. William Bedwell of Winnipeg, and Cynthia, presently attending Manitoba Teachers' College, and one son, Garth, beginning his first year studies at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Johnson was elected president of the Manitoba Medical Association this year.

★

Thor E. Stephenson this summer was elected president of Canadian Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company Limited, succeeding the late Ronald T. Riley. He was executive vice-president prior to his new appointment.

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A native of Winnipeg Mr. Stephenson joined the suburban Montreal aero engine and helicopter firm in 1956 and was named executive vice-president in 1958. Prior to this he served with the government of Canada, his last appointment being Director of Aircraft Production in the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. Stephenson holds degrees in aeronautical engineering from the University of Toronto and the California Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow and former president of the Canadian Aeronautical Institute.

He is the son of Mrs. Anne Stephenson, Winnipeg, and the late Mr. F. Stephenson.

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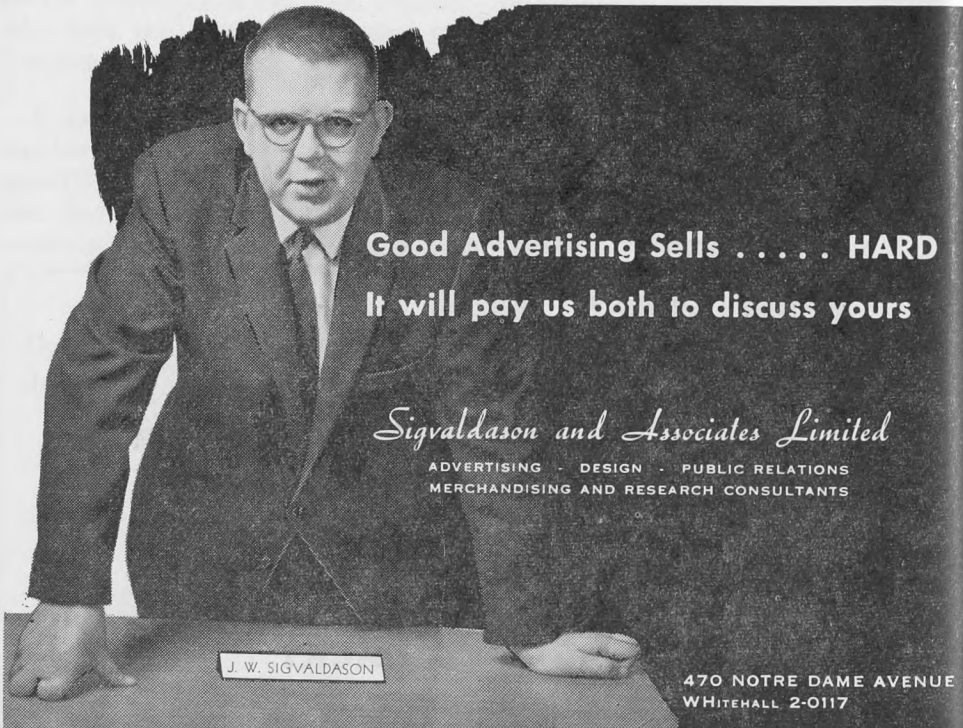
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